



Weekly Wire
East Asia and Pacific
February 18, 2013

Japan

Japan's FY2013 S&T budget Proposal

The Prime Minister has submitted his JFY2013 (one year from April 2013) budget proposal to the Diet. The proposed S&T portion of the budget is Yen 3,575 billion (\$38.5 billion). When combined with the JFY2012 supplemental budget for S&T that was issued in January 2013, the S&T budget in JFY2013 will be Yen 4,594 billion (\$49.4 billion). A detailed report will be produced by the NSF Tokyo Office when the JFY2013 budget is approved by the Diet.

Incoming and Outgoing Students

The Ministry of Education reported there were 58,060 Japanese students studying abroad in 2010, which is 3.1% less than the previous year and marked a decline for six consecutive years. The largest number of Japanese students were studying in the U.S. (21,290), followed by China (16,808), the UK (3,851), and Australia (2,413). The Japan Student Services Organization (JASSO) survey revealed that the number of foreign students in Japan as of May 1, 2012 was 137,756, a slight decrease of 0.2% from the previous year. Of this total, 86,324 (63%) were from China, 16,651 (12%) were from South Korea, and 4,617 (3%) from Taiwan.

http://www.mext.go.jp/b_menu/houdou/25/02/_icsFiles/afieldfile/2013/02/08/1330698_01.pdf
http://www.jasso.go.jp/statistics/intl_student/data12_e.html

March 2011 earthquake produced largest slip ever

An investigation of the plate boundary fault off the east coast of Japan that caused the magnitude 9.0 quake and tsunami in March 2011 showed that the massive earthquake released nearly all of the stress that had built up along the plate boundary in that region. The large amount of stress release has helped to explain the 50m horizontal slip on the fault, the longest ever recorded on a seafloor fault.

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2013/02/130207141454.htm>

Korea

Incoming Administration Vows to Boost Science and Technology

President-elect Park Geun-hye has vowed to boost the nation's science and technology sector, which is credited with driving economic growth both in the past and in the future. The president-elect said at a New Year's meeting with scientists that S&T is the engine for future growth and she will do her best to use developments in S&T as a foundation for the country's continued advancement.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/techscience/2013/01/10/0601000000AEN20130110011700315.HTML>

Investment in IT Development

The Ministry of Knowledge Economy (MKE) will invest over \$1.2 billion in 2013 to help develop new information and technology-based products and services. The South Korean Government's

investment in IT industry has significantly shifted from hardware products to new technologies and software.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/techscience/2013/01/10/0601000000AEN20130110002000320.HTML>

Global Cybersecurity Center

The Korea Communications Commission (KCC) and the World Bank signed a memorandum of understanding to establish a 'Global Cybersecurity Center.' Activities of the envisioned center include cybersecurity-related training and consulting programs for developing countries.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/national/2013/01/07/39/0301000000AEN20130107000300315F.HTML>

Science Satellite Successfully Launched

South Korea's science satellite successfully made contact with a ground station, making a success in the country's first-ever launch of a space rocket.

<http://english.yonhapnews.co.kr/techscience/2013/01/31/0601000000AEN20130131000351320.HTML>

New Zealand

New finds from the deep sea

Scientists have returned from a two-week survey to the north of New Zealand where they discovered a new species of eelpout, and new records of a rattail fish that has not previously been caught in the southwest Pacific, another rattail that has not been caught in New Zealand waters for over 100 years and a large deepsea cusk eel. The voyage sampled depths between one to six kilometres on the edge of the Kermadec Trench, one of the deepest places on earth with depths exceeding 10 kilometers.

<http://www.niwa.co.nz/news/new-finds-from-the-deep-sea-off-new-zealand>